

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims, including amended, are as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A cranial void filler comprising:
an upper mineralized cortical bone section, and
a lower, at least partially demineralized cortical bone section,
wherein the lower section is adapted and configured to contact walls of a cranial void.
2. (Withdrawn) The cranial void filler of claim 1, wherein the upper and lower sections form a T-shape.
3. (Withdrawn) The cranial void filler of claim 1, further comprising at least one slit extending through at least a portion of at least one of the upper and lower sections.
4. (Withdrawn) The cranial void filler of claim 1, wherein at least one slit extends through a portion of the upper section and at least one slit extends through the lower section.
5. (Withdrawn) The cranial void filler of claim 4, wherein the at least one slit in the lower section is colinear with the slit in the upper section.
6. (Withdrawn) The cranial void filler of claim 1, wherein the upper section has a rounded upper surface portion.
7. (Withdrawn) The cranial void filler of claim 1, wherein the upper section has a curved lower surface portion.
8. (Currently amended) A plate comprising:
a unitary body with a pair of portions each having a first width and a central portion disposed therebetween having a second width, the first width being substantially greater than the second width, and the body being formed of cortical bone; and
the unitary body further having at least one partially demineralized region with a third width smaller than the second width,

wherein the at least one partially demineralized region confers flexibility to the plate.

9. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of fastener holes in the unitary body.

10. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 9, wherein the body has a central longitudinal axis, and the at least one partially demineralized region comprises a first at least partially demineralized region that is coaxial therewith with the longitudinal axis.

11. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 10, wherein the first at least partially demineralized region extends substantially across the entire length of the unitary body.

12. (Original) The plate of claim 10, wherein the fastener holes are disposed proximate ends of the body.

13. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 12, wherein the fastener holes are disposed on a central longitudinal axis, and a the first at least partially demineralized region is coaxial therewith.

14. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 13, wherein a the at least one partially demineralized region further comprises at least a second at least partially demineralized region that is disposed transverse to the first at least partially demineralized region.

15. (Original) The plate of claim 14, wherein the at least second at least partially demineralized region is generally perpendicular to the first at least partially demineralized region.

16. (Original) The plate of claim 15, wherein the at least second at least partially demineralized region intersects at least one fastener hole.

17. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 8, wherein the body is relatively thin compared to its length or width each of the first widths and the second width.

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18. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 8, A plate comprising:
a unitary body with a pair of portions each having a first width and a central
portion disposed therebetween having a second width, the first width being substantially
greater than the second width, and the body being formed of cortical bone; and

the unitary body further having at least one partially demineralized region,
wherein the at least one partially demineralized region confers flexibility to
the plate, and

wherein the at least one partially demineralized region extends substantially
across the second width and is configured with edges extending transverse to a central
longitudinal axis of the body.

19. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 18 17, wherein the body has a central longitudinal axis and the at least partially demineralized region extends transverse to the central longitudinal axis.

20. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of fastener holes in the unitary body.

21. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 8, A plate comprising:
a unitary body with a pair of portions each having a first width and a central
portion disposed therebetween having a second width, the first width being substantially
greater than the second width, and the body being formed of cortical bone; and
the unitary body further having at least one partially demineralized region,
wherein the at least one partially demineralized region confers flexibility to
the plate, and

wherein the body is generally dogbone shaped.

22. (Original) The plate of claim 8, wherein the body has a central longitudinal axis, and the length of the body along the central axis is between about 10 mm and about 20 mm.

23. (Original) The plate of claim 22, wherein the first width is between about 4 mm and about 7 mm.

24. (Original) The plate of claim 23, wherein the body has a thickness between about 1 mm and about 3 mm.

25. (Currently amended) The plate of claim 23, wherein the first width is about 5 mm, and the body has a length of about 15 mm, a first width of about 5 mm, along the central longitudinal axis and a thickness of about 2 mm transverse to the central longitudinal axis.

26. (Original) An implant comprising a unitary section of cortical bone having a first portion that is mineralized and a second portion that is at least partially demineralized, wherein the mineralized portion includes a plurality of slits to facilitate bending of the unitary section.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of forming an implant comprising:
obtaining cortical fibers;
at least partially demineralizing the fibers;
allowing the fibers to clump together; and
allowing the fibers to dry in a clumped state.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the fibers are allowed to dry in a mold.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising pressing the fibers while the fibers are clumped together.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the fibers are obtained by milling.

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31. (Withdrawn) An implant for maintaining a space in a bisected vertebrae comprising:

a cortical bone cord having a first and second free ends adapted for engaging exposed portions of the lamina, and a region positioned between the first and second ends, wherein the region is at least partially demineralized to provide flexibility.

32. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 31, wherein the free ends are mineralized.

33. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 31, wherein the cord further comprises a pair of at least partially demineralized regions with a mineralized central region therebetween.

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34. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 31, wherein the at least partially demineralized region is centrally located between mineralized free ends.